

## BOOK REVIEW

JERRY A. POWELL AND PAUL A. OPLER. 2009. **Moths of Western North America**. (ISBN 978-0-520-25197-7, hbk.). University of California Press, 2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, California 94704-1012, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.ucpress.edu or California-Princeton Fulfillment Services, 1445 Lower Ferry Road, Ewing, New Jersey 08618, U.S.A., orders@cpfsinc.com, 1-800-777-4726). \$95.00, 369 pp., 66 color plates, 316 illustrations, 9" × 11 3/8".

This work, much needed, long anticipated, is an important contribution to the Lepidoptera literature of North America. It is a reference book on the families of moths; it is a field guide for collectors of specimens, photographs, or observations; and it is a readable text with the latest in research and in systematics. There is no comparable work.

The authors set out with definite goals in their coverage: morphology, larval biology, geographical distribution, and the treatment of at least 25% of the species in each family. Every superfamily, subfamily, and family is described as to basic characteristics, followed by species descriptions with reference to the 58 plates of photos of mounted specimens, some plates with more than 50 images. Plates 59 through 64 cover life cycles of selected microlepidoptera and the larvae of some "macros" photographed on their food plants. Western species predominate in coverage, but the West extends over the Rockies and into the Dakotas, Kansas, Texas, etc., and there are many moths known across the continent.

Botanists and horticulturists everywhere should find useful the Plant Index, in itself a formidable undertaking on the part of the authors, and very important as the plants in a way define the insect species. They will find it helpful to know which larvae have deleterious effects on the plants and find other items of interest such as which moths actually produce galls on plants.

The reputation of these two authors is uncontested, both having accomplished much in research and publication. One can be sure that their work is accurate in every detail and that they have incorporated in their conclusions the latest findings on every subject.—*Joann Karges, Texas Christian University Library (retired), Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.*